

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 OC-05 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01 AID-05 OMB-01 OPR-01

SCCT-01 SY-04 USSS-00 /075 W
----- 074541

P 072244Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3834

C O N F I D E N T I A L L I M A 1 0 7 2

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE

SUBJECT: FRIDAY (FEB 7); LIMA CALM SO FAR

1. AS OF 5:00 P.M., DOWNTOWN LIMA HAS RETURNED TO ITS NORMAL CONGESTED SELF. ARMY CONTINUES PATROLLING AREA BUT IS LESS IN EVIDENCE. GUARDIA CIVIL IS BACK AT POSTS.
 2. CURFEW FROM 8:00 P.M. TO 5:00 A.M. CONTINUES IN EFFECT TONIGHT (FEB 7-8). EMBOFF AND COMMUNICATOR WILL REMAIN ON DUTY OVERNIGHT AT CHANCERY TO HANDLE ANY PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT ARISE.
 3. ONE EMBASSY SOURCE QUOTED A PIP OFFICER TO EFFECT THAT CURFEW WOULD BE LIFTED QUICKLY IF PRESENT CALM PREVAILS. PIP OFFICER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT GOP LOSING NEEDED TAX REVENUES FROM CLOSURE OF THEATERS, BARS, ETC., NOT TO MENTION HARDSHIPS TO ARMED FORCES WHICH MUST PATROL CITY ALL NIGHT TO ENFORCE THE CURFEW.
 4. SITUATION DOWNTOWN CONTRASTS WITH MIRAFLORES
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RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, WHERE MANY "TOUGHS" ARE

REPORTEDLY ROAMING STREETS THIS AFTERNOON. AS A RESULT, A LARGE CONTINGENT OF GUARDIA CIVIL HAS BEEN DESPATCHED TO MIRAFLORES. THIS SHOW OF FORCE WILL LIKELY SUFFICE TO AVERT TROUBLE IN THE STREETS, OR READILY HANDLE IT IF IT OCCURS.

5. APRA SOURCE HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT APRA STUDENTS WERE RESPONSIBLE AT LEAST FOR THE FEBRUARY 5 ACTION AGAINST DOWNTOWN CIRCULAR MILITAR. SOURCE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, ADMIT TO APRA PARTY RESPONSIBILITY FOR FEBRUARY 5 DEMONSTRATIONS AND SUBSEQUENT ATTACKS AGAINST GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED NEWSPAPERS AND CIVIC CENTER. MEANWHILE AT THE APRA LABOR UNION (CTP) HAS ISSUED A DECLARATION CONDEMNING LOOTING. STATEMENT IS SILENT ON DEMONSTRATIONS THEMSELVES, PERHAPS BECAUSE APRA WELL AWARE OF POPULAR NATURE GUARDIA CIVIL GRIEVANCES AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS.
DEAN

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